

Applicant(s): David Schuttler et al.
U.S.S.N.: 10/763,811

REMARKS

In response to the Office Action mailed February 8, 2005, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration. To further the prosecution of this application, claims 7 and 15 have been amended, and claims 16 to 20 have been added to the application. Accordingly, claims 1 to 20 are pending in the application with claims 1, 7, 8, 15 and 16 being in independent form. The claims as presented are believed to be in allowable condition.

In the Office Action, each of claims 7 and 15 has been objected to for depending upon a rejected base claim, but indicated as allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of its base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 7 and 15 have been rewritten in independent form and should now be in allowable condition.

Claims 1-6 and 7-15 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 4,595,248 (Brown) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,773,285 (Bernat).

Claim 1 is directed to a terminal block for use in an uninterruptible power supply. The terminal block includes a first portion comprising a plurality of stalls, each of the plurality of stalls having an aperture, and at least one socket positioned in the aperture, the at least one socket arranged to accept a wire from internal portions of the uninterruptible power supply. The terminal block further includes a second portion removably connectable to the first portion, the second portion comprising a plurality of stalls, a plurality of electrical ports, an electrical port positioned in each of the plurality of stalls, and at least one connector pin positioned within one of the plurality of stalls to connect to the at least one socket through the aperture.

With regard to independent claims 1 and 8, the Office Action states that the terminal block of Brown does not have a first portion with a plurality of stalls and the socket in Brown is not shown attached to wires. The Office Action further states that Brown shows stalls for his second portion and wires attached to the pins in Brown, and that it would have been obvious to include stalls in the first portion of Brown and attach wires to the sockets of Brown. As will now be discussed, Applicants respectfully disagree that it would have been obvious to modify the terminal block of Brown as suggested, and even if it would have been obvious to modify Brown as suggested, the modified terminal block does not meet all of the limitations of claim 1.

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To establish a prima facie case of obviousness, there must be some suggestion or motivation in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of skill in the art to modify the reference (see, MPEP §§2142, 2143). In the present case, there is no motivation in the reference to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the reference as suggested in the Office Action, nor has the Office Action provided any indication of what the motivation would be. Accordingly, the Office Action has not established a prima facie case of obviousness. In Brown, base contacts 26 (referred to in the Office Action as sockets) are installed in a base block 20 made of insulating material (col. 2, lines 58-59). There would have been no motivation to one of skill in the art to add stalls to the base block 20, as there would have been no apparent reason to do so. Further, one of ordinary skill in the art would not have been motivated to “attach wires to the sockets 26 of Brown” as stated in the Office Action as there is no reason to do so. The base contacts 26 of Brown have tails 38 that provide electrical contact between the sockets 26 and electrical conductors 12 (col. 3, lines 28-32).

Further, even if it were obvious to modify Brown, as suggested, the modified system does not meet all of the limitations of claim 1. Claim 1 is directed to a terminal block for use in an uninterruptible power supply. The terminal block includes a first portion having at least one socket arranged to accept a wire from internal portions of the uninterruptible power supply. Brown does not disclose an uninterruptible power supply and accordingly does not disclose a socket arranged to accept a wire from internal portions of an uninterruptible power supply. Based on the foregoing, claim 1 is patentable over Brown and the rejection of claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. §103 should be withdrawn.

Claims 2-6 depend from claim 1 and are patentable for at least the same reasons. Further, the Office Action has not specifically addressed the limitations contained in claims 4-6. If the rejection of any of claims 4-6 is to be maintained, Applicants respectfully request that the limitations of claims 4-6 be addressed.

Independent claim 8 is directed to a terminal block for use in making electrical connections in an uninterruptible power supply. The terminal block includes a first portion having a plurality of stalls, each of the plurality of stalls including an aperture to accept a wire from an internal portion of the uninterruptible power supply, and a second portion having a

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plurality of stalls, each of the plurality of stalls including an electrical port for accepting electrical connections from at least one device. The terminal block further includes connecting means for connecting the first portion to the second portion, the connecting means including at least one connector inserted into a first side of the aperture and at least one socket inserted into a second side of the aperture.

Claim 8 is patentable over Brown for reasons similar to claim 1 discussed above. First, as discussed above, there is no motivation to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify Brown as suggested in the Office Action, and accordingly, the rejection should be withdrawn. Second, even if it were obvious to modify Brown as suggested, the modified system does not meet all of the limitations of claim 8. Specifically, the modified system does not disclose or suggest a terminal block in which a first portion includes an aperture to accept a wire from an uninterruptible power supply. Based on the foregoing, claim 8 is patentable over Brown and the rejection of claim 8 under 35 U.S.C. §103 should be withdrawn.

Claims 9-14 depend from claim 8 and are patentable for at least the same reasons. Further, the Office Action has not specifically addressed the limitations contained in claims 9-14. If the rejection of any of claims 9-14 is to be maintained, Applicants respectfully request that the limitations of claims 9-14 be addressed.

Claims 16-20 have been added to the application. Independent claim 16 is directed to a method of coupling a plurality of external wires to an uninterruptible power supply. The method includes coupling each of the external wires to one of a plurality of connection devices, wherein each of the connection devices is coupled to a common tray, and inserting the common tray into an opening in the uninterruptible power supply such that each of the external wires is electrically coupled to a corresponding wire in the uninterruptible power supply.

The prior art of record, including Brown and Bernat, do not disclose or suggest a method of coupling a plurality of external wires to an uninterruptible power supply as recited in claim 16. Accordingly, claim 16 is believed to be in patentable condition.

Claims 17-20 depend from claim 16 and are patentable for at least the same reasons.

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CONCLUSION

Based on the foregoing, the application is believed to be in allowable condition and a notice to that effect is respectfully requested. If the Examiner has any questions regarding the application, he is invited to contact the Applicant's Attorney at the number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,



Thomas M. Sullivan, Esq. (Reg. No. 39,392)
LOWRIE, LANDO & ANASTASI, LLP
Riverfront Office Park
One Main Street
Cambridge, MA 02142
Tel.: (617) 395-7024
Fax: (617) 395-7070
Attorney for Applicants

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